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General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/66/150.
** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2011]

1. Cuba reiterates the criteria expressed in its prior responses to the Secretary-General in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The complex international situation and the need for a peaceful response to the pressing problems besetting humanity confirm the importance of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation as the most viable option for addressing new threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the relevance of the General Assembly resolution to which this reply relates.

3. The stalemate stemming from the lack of political will on the part of certain actors that has persisted for the past few years in the negotiations on the multilateral disarmament machinery increases the value of multilateralism. In the past, the concerted multilateral efforts of the international community have enabled the adoption and implementation of such important international instruments as the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention, in whose letter and spirit the respective States Parties have made a commitment to the total elimination of two categories of weapons of mass destruction.

4. There have been encouraging signs in the Conference on Disarmament, which in 2009 adopted a programme of work after more than 10 years of failure to reach agreement.

5. The unilateral actions in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control undertaken by some States Members of the United Nations to solve their security problems constitute a grave danger for international peace and security, and erode confidence in the international system, the foundations of the United Nations itself, and the credibility of multilateral agreements on disarmament.

6. Practice has shown that the goals of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction cannot be achieved through unilateral measures, the development of strategic alliances to promote agreements negotiated outside internationally recognized multilateral frameworks, or by the use or threat of use of force. Multilateralism and peaceful solutions negotiated through the organs established for such purposes and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations continue to be the only suitable way to settle disputes.

7. Once again it is necessary to reaffirm the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as of the determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations on this issue.

8. Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism and the multilateral decision-making process under the auspices of the United Nations, with strict adherence to its Charter and to international law, with the aim of creating a multipolar, just and equitable world

order and world democratic governance, and not one based on the monopoly of a handful of wealthy nations.

9. The threat of extermination hanging over humankind because of nuclear weapons must be definitively eliminated, by entirely eradicating such weapons. Cuba supports the negotiation of a legally binding international treaty, similar to the conventions prohibiting chemical and biological weapons, in order to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

10. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, whose members have always been at the forefront of actions and initiatives to achieve nuclear disarmament, reaffirmed its commitment to this issue by adopting a declaration on the subject at the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011. The declaration expresses a strong commitment to work towards holding a high-level international conference to identify ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons in the shortest time frame possible.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[26 June 2011]

1. As a result of its concern for disarmament, non-proliferation and weapons control and regulation, Nicaragua has participated actively in international conferences held within the framework of the United Nations and other international forums, supporting the multilateral negotiations devoted to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms regulation. In that way, Nicaragua has pressed for the adoption, evaluation and examination of resolutions and declarations on these subjects, so that decisive progress can be made towards limiting the arms race and finding a path to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and to the achievement of general and complete disarmament under an effective monitoring system.

2. Nicaragua takes the view that disarmament can be achieved in a climate of trust founded on mutual respect and conducive to the establishment of better relations based on justice, solidarity and cooperation, and also that multilateral, regional and subregional arms control and disarmament agreements are the only way to peacefully resolve disputes and conflicts.

3. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity, led by Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, is convinced that multilateralism is the only way to maintain international peace and security and that a common effort by all States to agree collectively on instruments and mechanisms will lead us to guarantee mutual security. It is aware that international cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, dialogue and confidence-building measures contribute essentially to the creation of multilateral and bilateral friendly and respectful relations among peoples and nations.

4. Nicaragua considers that general and complete disarmament is a crucial tool that should be used to reduce political asymmetry and bolster the international order on the basis of the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. In addition, it is in the common interest of all peoples not to live with the threat of weapons of mass

destruction. The strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of disarmament complement and reinforce each other.

5. Nicaragua shares the international community's commitment to eliminate chemical and biological weapons, and supports the early conclusion of a verification protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

6. Nicaragua reaffirms its commitment to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials, because it considers that the excessive accumulation of conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons, leads to tensions and conflicts, as well as the high crime rates in the region.

7. Nicaragua supports the initiative of the Rio Group in the framework of the Organization of American States to make the hemisphere a zone free of anti-personnel mines. We believe that this objective is possible with support and cooperation from the international community to accomplish demining and above all assistance for the victims, because these are fundamental and complementary aspects of alleviating suffering and clearing the way for development.

8. The Government of Reconciliation and National Unity believes that the best way of addressing the challenges of the twenty-first century is through effective multilateralism, based on respect for and recognition of nations and Governments, in order to establish new partnerships and develop common strategies and policies.